

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21 (canceled)

22. (new) A conjugate comprising a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and a single branched poly(ethylene glycol) group having an overall molecular weight of about 40 kDa, wherein the polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 is linked to the poly(ethylene glycol) group by a member selected from the group consisting of: (1) cysteine 110; (2) cysteine 117; and (3) cysteine 110 and cysteine 117 of the polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

23. (new) A conjugate comprising a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and a single branched poly(ethylene glycol) group having an overall molecular weight of about 40 kDa, produced by a process comprising reacting a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 with activated (polyethylene) glycol under conditions such that said (polyethylene) glycol is chemically bound to said polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 by thiol groups of the polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

24. (new) A composition comprising the conjugate of claim 22 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.